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# Lodge Gets Rid Of an Obstacle

**APART FROM** the Communists and Madame Nhu, one of the principal obstacles to the attainment of United States objectives in South Vietnam is the CIA.

This agency constantly embarrasses the Government and citizens of the United States, wherever it may operate. In every crisis that comes along—in Guatemala, in the Bay of Pigs, in U-2 flights over Russia — the Central Intelligence Agency unvaryingly succeeds in finding the wrong way to help our side.

Such has been the story out in Saigon, and Ambassador Henry Cabot Lodge never appeared more shrewd, skillful and operationally sound than he did when he asked for the recall of the CIA chief there.

**IT IS CERTAINLY** nothing new for an American Ambassador to find the CIA attempting to run American policy and operations in the country to which the Ambassador is accredited. When Ambassador Lodge found himself up against that peculiar form of anarchy, however, he deferred not a whit to the CIA's labyrinth of highly paid, underaccounted-for U. S. Government employees. It speaks well for his prestige that his complaints got a hearing in the White House and the word went out to John H. Richardson, the CIA chief in Saigon, to come home.

It is said to be Lodge's complaint that his position as head of the American mission in Vietnam was inconsistent with the concept which the CIA chief held of his job. Richardson worked closely with Ngo Dinh Nhu, brother of President Diem and husband of the Dragon Lady. This circumstance must have made it awkward for Lodge to remonstrate with Ngo Dinh Nhu for spending far more of his energy on repressing Buddhists than fighting Communists.

**WHILE AMBASSADOR LODGE** may be over-optimistic in asking for it, he is certainly right in insisting that the successor to the CIA chief in Saigon should be instructed to confine himself to the gathering and analyzing of intelligence information.